National Gas Grid

910. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for establishing a National Gas Grid has been mooted by the ONGC and if so. what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether any decision has been talen on this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The proposal of ONGC for a National Gas Grid is a part of the long-term Perspective Plan for the development and utilisation of natural gas. Its implementation will depend upon the establishment of adequate reserves of gas and availability of financial resources for its production and utilisation. Exploration is underway for discovering oil and gas reserves.

Policy regarding dual pricing of LPG refills

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to slate:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of its dual pricing policy in regard to LPG refills; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that the dual pricing policy has hit the domes-; tic consumers as the refills meant foi them are diverted for commercial purposes; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to provide relief to the domestic consume s ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRl BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The structure for pricing of LPG cylinders, after withdrawal of subsidy to non-domestic consumer is under constant review by the oil industry and the Government. Several steps were taken to check the malpractices even at the lime of introducing the non-domestic price and additional steps have also been taken on a further review. These are:

(i) Identification of non-domestic customers.

(ii) Colour-banding of cylinders supplied tO non-domeslic customers.

(iii) Inspections of dealers and users to cheek malpractices.

tiv) Supply of cylinders of different size for non-domestic use. wherever possible.

(v) Maintenance of separate registers at the dealers level in respect of domestic and non-domestic customers.

(vi) Reattachment of non-domestic customers, from dealers indulging in malpractices to other dealers.

(vii) Placement of separate indents for domestic and non-domestic cylinders by the dealers.

The policy has not affected supplies to domestic customers. Problems Faced by Public Sector Units

912. DR. R. K. PODDAR:

SHRl MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to stale:

la) whether it is a fact that manpower deployment, obsolescence of technology, c'c. are the main problems being faced by I public sector units; and

(li) if so. what are Government's plans i to sort out these problems ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHEDEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: (a) and (b) The problems faced by the Public Sector Units are manifold and vary from undertaking to undertaking depending on their specific problems. However, the problems in general are, low production and productivity due i to old plant and machinery, obsolete technology, excess manpower etc.; market re-

cession in some cases, higher cosf, power shortage .nd fiequent breakdowns.

The s:cps taken by Governmenl to oveicome these problems include modernisation and lehabihtation of plant and equipment, technology up-giadation, tegular monitoring of performance, re-deployment ano rationalisation of surplus manpower, liaining and letraining of personnel and adoption of variou- cost control measures.

Expansion of Rupnarayanpur unit of Hindustan Cable

913. DR R K. PODDAR : SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM :

Will'the Ministei of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whethei theie is any proposal under Govt's consideration for Ihe expansion of Hindustan Cable's Rupnaiayanpur Unit in West Bengal,

(b) if so, what aie the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF 1NDUSTRV (SHRJ M ARUNACHALAM) . (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pioposal for expansion of capacity by 18 lakh Conductor Kilomcteis (CKM) foi manufactuie of Jelly Filled Cables in Rupnarayanpur Unit of Hindustan Cables Ltd. was eailiei consideied by ihe Govt, but was defened pending finalisation of targets for telecommunication projections for 7th Plan. However, owing to demand as also lesource constraints no furthe! progress could be made so far Meanwhile, the company has been advised to revise the cost estimates of ihe pio-jecl.

(c) Does not arise.

Rationalisation of work force in Public Sector Enterprises

914. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : SHRI M A. BABY :

Will the Ministei of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(.)) whethei public sector enterprises have been asked to prepaie schemes for Ihe rationalisation of their work force;

(b) if so, what is the response fi om the units, and

(c) by when the schemes are likely to be made public ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNA CHALAM) (a) Rationalisation work foi ee in Public Sector Undei takings is a Management function of the concerned Public Sector Undertakings. No specific instiuctions were issued in this regaid to the Public Sector Undertakings

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Closing down of paper mills

915. SHRI SURESH KALMADI . Will the Ministe' of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whethei it is a fact that a number of paper mills have been closed down for vai ying periods due to shortage of forest based raw materials, eiratic movement of coal supplies, etc. dining the last one year;

(b) whethei it is also a fact that a number of paper mills were unable to sell their entire pioduction resulting in growing accumulation of stocks', and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation with a view to meeting ihe long term and immediate reuuiremenls of paper industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRl M. ARUNA CHALAM) (a) No speciflc reports about the closuie of papei mills during the yeai for icasoiis of shortage of forest raw material oi non-availability of coal have been received.